

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 IO-13 MCT-01 SSM-03 DHA-02 OMB-01

TRSE-00 AF-08 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 ORM-02

AID-05 /103 W

-----051331 039735 /46

R 050638Z MAR 77

FM AMEMBASSY TUNIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5960

INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, TS, XF, PLO

SUBJECT: REPORT THAT PALESTINIAN LEADERS ARE TO HOLD "PRE-COUNCIL" MEETING IN TUNIS

REF: TUNIS 1295

1. ON MARCH 4 TWO TUNIS DAILIES (SEMI-INDEPENDENT "LE TEMPS" AND GOVERNMENT ORGAN "LA PRESSE") CARRIED IDENTICAL ARTICLE DATE-LINED "NICOSIA" ANNOUNCING THAT PRINCIPAL LEADERS ""LES PRINCIPAUX VESPONSABLES HISTORIQUES") OF PLO WILL MEET IN TUNIS IN NEXT FEW DAYS, IN PREPARATION FOR PLO NATIONAL COUNCIL MEETING TO BE HALD IN CAIRO BEGINNING MARCH 12.

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2. GOT HAD ANNOUNCED MARCH 3 THAT PLO EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE PRESIDENT YASSER ARAFAT WOULD OPEN THE SECOND CONGRESS OF UNION OF PALESTINIAN WRITERS AND JOURNALISTS IN TUNIS ON MARCH 4. ALTHOUGH THIS MEETING HAD BEEN ANNOUNCED SEVERAL WEEKS EARLIER, RUMORS THAT ARAFAT WOULD GIVE OPENING ADDRESS WERE ONLY CONFIRMED AT EVE OF THIS MEETING, WHICH

WILL CONTINUE THROUGH MARCH 9.

3. THERE HAS BEEN NO OFFICIAL GOT OR PLO ANNOUNCEMENT AS TO HOW LONG ARAFAT WILL REMAIN IN TUNIS NOR WHEN AND IF PREPARATORY PLO LEADERSHIP MEETING WILL TAKE PLACE. (ABDEL ABU MAYZAR, MEMBER PLO EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, HAD SAID IN TUNIS ON FEBRUARY 22 THAT RUMORS OF SUCH A MEETING WERE WITHOUT FOUNDATION.) ACCORDING TO MARCH 4 NEWSPAPER STORY, WHICH IS NOT ATTRIBUTED AS TO SOURCE, MEETING WILL TAKE PLACE AND WILL INVOLVE ARAFAT AND MEMBERS OF REJECTION FRONT, OBJECTIVE BEING TO REVIEW QUESTIONS WHICH WILL BE DISCUSSED IN SUBSEQUENT PALESTINIAN NATIONAL COUNCIL MEETING IN CAIRO. IMPLICATION IS THAT PURPOSE OF UNIS MEETING IS TO FIND COMMON GROUND ON WHICH ALL ELEMENTS OF PALESTINIAN MOVEMENT CAN AGREE IN CAIRO.

4. ARTICLE CONTINUES THAT "CONSIDERABLE PRESSURES, NOTABLY MILITARY, DESIGNED TO OVERCOME PALESTINIAN MOVEMENT'S HISTORIC REFUSAL TO RECOGNIZE EXISTENCE OF ISRAEL HAVE AND ARE BEING TAKEN BY ARAB STATES NOW WANTING TO END CONFLICT WHICH IMPEDES ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT TO WHICH THEIR COUNTRIES ASPIRE." THE RESULT OF THIS PRESSURE REPORTEDLY IS AN EVIDENT MODERATION IN THE TONE OF PLO LEADERS. ARTICLE EXPRESSES HOPE THAT PALESTINIANS WILL TRANSLATE THIS MODERATION INTO FACT BY TAKING PUBLIC POSITIONS WHICH WILL ALLOW FOR OPENING THE ROAD TO GENEVA. ARTICLE NOTES THAT "FACILITATING THIS EVOLUTION, FIRST SIGNIFICANT MEASURE HAS BEEN TAKEN: FOR FIRST TIME SINCE FEBRUARY 1969, THE GUERRILLA MOVEMENTS WILL BE IN MINORITY IN NEW PALESTINIAN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ASSEMBLY." IF THIS GROUP ADOPTS CONCEPT OF A PALESTINIAN STATE COMPRISING ONLY GAZA AND WEST BANK, "THE STORM WILL HAVE BEEN WEATHERED." FAROUK KADDOUMI IS QUOTED AS HAVING SAID PALESTINIANS MIGHT BE CONTENT WITH A MINI-STATE ENCOMPASSING GAZA AND WEST BANK IF IT HAS GUARANTEE FROM GREAT POWERS AND IS INDEPENDENT.

5. ARTICCLE CLOSES BY SAYING IT IS NOT CERTAIN PALESTINIANS ARE READY TO RENOUNCE IMMEDIATELY THEIR HISTORIC POSITION, UNTIL THEY ARE CERTAIN OF BEING ACCEPTED AT NEGOTIATING TABLE AND UNTIL THE "NATIONAL RIGHTS OF THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE" ARE ACCEPTED IN GENEVA CONTEXT. ARTICLE NOTES THAT PALESTINIANS' USUAL POLICY IS NOT TO REDUCE THEIR LATITUDE OF NEGOTIATION WITHOUT GETTING SOMETHING IN RETURN. MULCAHY

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, PALESTINIANS, POLITICAL LEADERS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 05-Mar-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977TUNIS01498
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770076-1072
Format: TEL
From: TUNIS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770388/aaaaczsk.tel
Line Count: 112
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 5cb012bd-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 TUNIS 1295
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 16-Nov-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3193239
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: REPORT THAT PALESTINIAN LEADERS ARE TO HOLD \"PRE- COUNCIL\" MEETING IN TUNIS
TAGS: PFOR, TS, XF, PLO
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/5cb012bd-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009